

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MALI'S FOREIGN MINISTER BLAMES INDUSTRIAL
NATIONS FOR WORLD'S WOES

PARIS FOR HELMAN AND MELONE

SUMMARY: IN HARSH AND IMPASSIONED DENUNCIATION OF THE
"OLD ORDER", (I.E. THE UNITED STATES AND THE FORMER
COLONIAL POWERS), MALI FOREIGN MINISTER, CHARLES SAMBA
SISSOKO, IN RECENT INTERVIEW, LEFT NO DOUBT THAT MALI
REMAINS NONALIGNED AGAINST THE U.S. ON MOST MAJOR ISSUES
FROM VIETNAM TO THE ENERGY CRISIS. WHILE EMBASSY RELATIONS
WITH MALIAN OFFICIALS ON DROUGHT RELIEF ASSISTANCE AND
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ARE A MODEL OF COOPERATION AND
CORDIALITY, CLEARLY THE GOOD WILL GENERATED BY USAID'S
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GROWING AID PROGRAM HAS NOT SPILLED OVER INTO THE POLITICAL

FIELD WHERE MALI'S POSITION ON WORLD ISSUES IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL WITH THE COMMUNIST BLOC. SISSOKO IS AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF MALI'S ELEVEN-MEMBER MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION WHICH RULES THE COUNTRY. THEREFORE, THOUGH MORE RADICAL THAN SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (NAMELY PRESIDENT TRAORE AND DEFENSE MINISTER KISSIMA DOUKARA), HIS VIEWS CAN BE REGARDED AS AN OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF MALI'S FOREIGN POLICY. SISSOKO'S MAIN POINTS WERE:

1. THE OLD ORDER IS CRUMBLING (I.E. DECOLONIZATION)

SISSOKO SAID THAT THE OLD ORDER BASED ON VIOLENCE, DOMINATION, AND EXPLOITATION IS CRUMBLING AND HE GAVE AS EVIDENCE: THE ADMISSION OF THE PRC TO THE UN, THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS ON VIETNAM, THE AFFIRMATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, THE DECOLONIZATION OF THE TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE DOMINATION, THE EXPULSION OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE 29TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE UNESCO DECISION ON ISRAEL. QUOTE MY FEELING IS THAT THE WORLD IS IN THE PROCESS OF UNDERGOING EXTREMELY PROFOUND CHANGES. THE TIME WHEN A FEW POWERS COULD BY THEMSELVES DECIDE THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY HAS PASSED. THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD, DAY BY DAY, CONSCIOUS OF THEIR STRENGTH, ARE EXERCISING MORE AND MORE PRESSURES AND INFLUENCING DECISIONS. THEIR SOLIDARITY, IN ALL AREAS, IS BECOMING MORE EFFECTIVE. UNQUOTE. IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW ORDER BASED ON JUSTICE, SISSOKO POINTED OUT THAT MALI HAS ALWAYS GIVEN ITS MORAL, POLITICAL, AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT TO QUOTE THE VICTIMS OF THE BARBAROUS AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND KOREA. UNQUOTE

2. ENERGY CRISIS MASKS BASIC ECONOMIC INJUSTICES

SISSOKO SAID THAT THE ENERGY CRISIS DIVERTS ATTENTION FROM THE REAL INJUSTICE WHICH IS THE QUOTE DEGRADATION IN THE TERMS OF EXCHANGE UNQUOTE BETWEEN THE LDC'S WHICH SUPPLY RAW MATERIALS TO THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR HIGH-PRICED MANUFACTURED GOODS. THIS ECONOMIC ORDER, SISSOKO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPLAINED, IS FOUNDED ON THE EXPLOITATION OF THE WORLD'S RESOURCES TO THE PROFIT OF A SMALL NUMBER OF TECHNOLOGICALLY AND INDUSTRIALLY ADVANCED NATIONS AND TO THE DETRIMENT OF COUNTRIES WHICH GIVE UP THEIR RESOURCES ON CONDITIONS DICTATED BY THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS.

3. WORLD MONETARY SYSTEM INSTITUTIONALIZES ECONOMIC INJUSTICE

SISSOKO SAID THAT THE MONETARY SYSTEM PUT INTO PLACE AT BRETTON WOODS CREATED FIXED EXCHANGE RATES AND FURNISHED INTERNATIONAL LIQUIDITIES TO CORRECT DISEQUILIBRIUMS ARISING FROM GROWING INFLATION. THIS MONETARY SYSTEM, BENEFITTED VERY LITTLE THE LDC'S AS INDICATED BY THE INFLATION-DEVALUATION-INFLATION CYCLE WHICH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN LOCKED INTO FOR MANY YEARS.

4. FOREIGN AID PARSIMONIOUS AND SELF-SERVING

QUOTE PARSIMONIOUS FOREIGN AID, DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO THE REAL NEEDS OF THE LDC'S: IT IS GRANTED GENERALLY TOWARD PURPOSES FITTING THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE

5. FOOD CRISIS CAUSED BY DEVELOPED NATIONS

QUOTE THE (OLD) ECONOMIC ORDER IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOOD CRISIS: IT STIMULATES PRODUCTION OF PRIMARY GOODS WHICH THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES NEED AND NEGLECTS, FACED WITH A GROWING POPULATION, THE PROMOTION OF FOOD PRODUCTION IN SOME COUNTRIES FROM WHICH IT HAS TAKEN AWAY ALL OF ITS FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN ORDER TO REALIZE THE NATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE

6. MALI SUPPORTS CLOSE TIES WITH ARAB WORLD

THE FOREIGN MINISTER REFERRED TO MALI'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OAU COMMITTEE OF SEVEN WHICH IS STUDYING THE EFFECTS OF OIL EMBARGO ON AFRICAN NATIONS. HE SAID THAT MALI SUPPORTS DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE INCLUDING: (A) THE NEED FOR IMPROVED COOPERATION BETWEEN ARAB AND AFRICAN STATES, (B) THE REINFORCEMENT OF SANCTIONS AGAINST THE RACIST REGIMES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOUTH AFRICA, (C) THE NEED TO SUPPLY OIL TO AFRICAN STATES ACCORDING TO THEIR NEEDS, (D) THE PROPOSAL TO ACCELERATE THE CREATION OF AN ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA AND AN INCREASE IN THE BANK'S CAPITAL, AND FINALLY, (E) THE CREATION OF A US\$200 MILLION FUND TO COVER OIL PURCHASES IN 1974 BY NON-OIL PRODUCING AFRICAN STATES. SISSOKO ALSO REFERRED TO FOLLOWING DECISIONS TAKEN AT RABAT ARAB SUMMIT AS REINFORCING ARAB-AFRICAN COOPERATION: (A) PROPOSALS FOR AN ARAB-AFRICAN SUMMIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE: (B) A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE CAPITAL OF THE ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, (C) THE RE-FINANCING OF THE (ARAB) SPECIAL FUND AT 1974 LEVELS FOR 1975 WITH LOAN TERMS IMPROVED FROM 8 TO 25 YEARS REPAYMENT, A GRACE PERIOD OF TEN YEARS, AND ONLY 1 PERCENT INTEREST. SISSOKO CONCLUDED: QUOTE TAKEN AS A WHOLE, THESE DECISIONS LEAD ME TO

HAVE GREAT HOPES ON THE EFFICIENCY OF THE OAU COMMITTEE OF SEVEN IN THE CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION AMONG ARAB AND AFRICAN STATES. UNQUOTE

COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTER SISSOKO ASSISTED BY INFORMATION MINISTER YOUSSEF TRAORE HAVE PROMOTED THE CAUSE OF THE ARABS, THE MAINLAND CHINESE, AND THE COMMUNISTS, WHILE PRESIDENT TRAORE AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOUKARA HAVE ENCOURAGED FRENCH, WEST GERMAN, IBRD, AND AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN MALI'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. WHETHER DICTATED BY NEED FOR DONOR AID FROM ALLSOURCES OR BY CONVICTION, CLEARLY MALI'S PROCLAIMED INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK COINCIDES WITH THE STANDARD COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA IN MOST RESPECTS. THE MALI GOVERNMENT MAY ALSO FEEL THAT WHATEVER LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE IS FORTHCOMING FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES HAS NOT AND IS UNLIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY MALI'S POSTURE ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AS LONG AS THE ATTACKS ARE DIRECTED AGAINST THE QUOTE OLD ORDER UNQUOTE AND DON'T GET TOO SPECIFIC.
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